

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00971 01 OF 02 200651Z

10

ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
----- 098671

R 191455Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1563
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SECTION 1 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0971

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, XF, IS, EC, SY
SUBJ: EBAN-FRELINGHUYSEN CONVERSATION ON ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE

SUMMARY. FOREIGN MINISTER EBAN IN FEB 15 DISCUSSION
WITH REP PETER FRELINGHUYSEN (R-NJ) AND MYSELF
REVIEWED CURRENT ISRAELI THINKING ON WIDE RANGE OF ARAB-
ISRAELI ISSUES INCLUDING ISRAELI POWS IN SYRIA, PROSEPCTS
FOR SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS, SADAT'S
INTENTIONS, EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS, SOVIET MIDEAST ROLE,
GENEVA CONFERENCE AND US-ISRAELI RELATIONS. END
SUMMARY

1. ISRAELI POWS IN SYRIA. REP FRELINGHUYSEN OPENED
CONVERSATION BY NOTING THAT HE HAD JUST VISITED HOSPITALIZED

SYRIAN POWS HELD BY ISRAELIS AND EXPRESSING DEEP US CONCERN
FOR FATE OF ISRAELI POWS IN SYRIA. AFTER I NOTED ARNAUD DE
BORCHGRAVE'S ESTIMATE THAT SYRIA HELD 16 PILOTS AND 34 OTHERS,
SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00971 01 OF 02 200651Z

EBAN SAID THAT MAXIMUM NUMBER OF ISRAELI POWS COULD BE 90, AL-
THOUGH HE FEARED THAT IT WAS EVEN LOWER THAN SADAT'S FIGURE
(TEL AVIV 930).

2. SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT. ON CURRENT DEADLOCK EBAN STRESSED THAT GOI HAD AGREED TO SECRETARY'S PROPOSAL ON SIMULTANEITY OF ISRAELI AND SYRIAN FIRST MOVES TO START NEGOTIATING PROCESS. GOI HAD RECEIVED NO SBNICIAL CONFIRMATION THAT SARG HAD REJECTED US PROPOSAL. FAHMY-SAQQAF MISSION TO WASHINGTON SUGGESTED THAT THERE WAS STILL PROSEPCT OF CONTINUED MOVEMENT. EBAN NOTED THAT US, USSR, EGYPT AND EVEN FRANCE HAD TRIED, WITH VARYING LEVELS OF INTENSITY, TO GET SYRIA TO START DISENGAGEMENT TALKS WITH ISRAEL. SYRIA WANTED CLOSER IF NOT FRIENDLIER RELATIONS WITH US, HE OBSERVED, ENABLING US TO KEEP UP PRESSURE ON DISENGAGEMENT ISSUE. SOVIETS FEARED RENEWAL OF FIGHTING ON NORTHERN FRONT. INSOFAR AS THEY ARE INTERESTED IN DETENTE, THEY WANTED TO REDUCE DIMENSIONS OF SYRIAN-ISRAELI TENSION. EBAN ADDED THAT SOVIETS HAD MADE"PERFUNCTORY GESTURE" TO SYRIANS FOUR WEEKS AGO, AND PERHAPS HAD TAKEN SOME ADDITIONAL INITIATIVE MORE RECENTLY. EGYPT WANTED SYRIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT SO AS NOT TO BE ISOLATED, AND THIS WAS PURPOSE OF CONVENING MINI-SUMMIT IN ALGIERS. EBAN ADDED THAT SADAT WAS UNDER PRESSURE FROM OTHER ARAB STATES TO BREAK HIS COMMITMENTS RE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI DISENGAGEMENT, AN ACTION WHICH COULD ONLY DRIVE HIM CLOSER TO SOVIETS.

4. EGYPTIAN INTENTIONS. CONGRESSMAN FRELINGHUYSEN STATED THAT, ON BASIS OF HIS FEBRUARY 12 MEETING WITH SADAT, HE BELIEVED THAT SADAT GENUINELY WANTED SETTLEMENT OF ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AND FEARED FURTHER DEADLOCK ARISING FROM EXCESSIVE ISRAELI "SECOND THOUGHTS". EBAN REPLIED THAT EGYPT, NOT ISRAEL, CONDITIONED FURTHER PROGRESS ON SYRIA, AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT EGYPT WOULD DECIDE IT COUD CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS EVEN IF SITUATION WITH SYRIA REMAINED DEADLOCKED.

5. ISRAELI POLICY. EBAN CHARACTERIZED GOI POLICY AS MOMENTUM, NOTING THAT OCTOBER WAR HAD EXPLODED "ILLUSION OF DEADLOCK" IN WHICH NEITHER SIDE FELT OBLIGATED TO MOVE. SADAT'S CREDIBILITY, HE NOTED, WAS CENTRAL TO FUTURE ISRAELI POLICY. IF ISRAELIS CAME TO BELIEVE WHAT SADAT SAID, POLICY WOULD CHANGE. AS
SECRET

PAGE 03 TEL AV 00971 01 OF 02 200651Z

REGARDS SYRIA, ISRAEL WOULD ADVOCATE DISENGAGEMENT EVEN IF THERE WERE NO POW ISSUE INVOLVED.

6. EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONS. EBAN NOTED THAT EGYPT WAS BECOMING MORE INDEPENDENT OF SOVIETS, EVEN "PREPARED TO IGNORE THE SOVIET UNION TO AN EXTRAORDINARY DEGREE". AS TO FUTURE, CRUCIAL ISSUE WOULD BE WHETHER EGYPT TURNED MORE TO WEST FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE OR TO SOVIETS FOR MILITARY AID. CURRENT EGYPTIAN INTEREST IN US AND EUROPEAN ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, PUBLIC AND PRIVATE, WAS SIGNIFICANT.

7. SOVIET ROLE IN MIDEAST NEGOTIATIONS. EBAN SAID THAT IT WAS IMPORTANT TO SAVE SOVIET PRIDE BY INVOLVING THEM MORE

IN NEGOTIATING PROCESS. SOLUTION WAS TO USE GENEVA FORUM AT WHICH SOVIETS COULD HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO ARABS AND ISRAELIS. SOVIETS HAD WANTED ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT SO MUCH THAT THEY HAD ACCEPTED THE PROCEDURE EVEN THOUGH THEY WERE LARGELY EXCLUDED.

NOTE BY OC/T: TEL AVIV 0971 - NOT PASSED BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS.

SECRET

PAGE 01 TEL AV 00971 02 OF 02 200707Z

17
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CCO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W
----- 098786

R 191455Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1564
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
USINT CAIRO
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM
USMISSION GENEVA
AMEMBASSY JIDDA

S E C R E T SECTION 2 OF 2 TEL AVIV 0971

EXDIS

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD AND DAMASCUS

8. GENEVA CONFERENCE: EBAN NOTED THAT GENEVA FORUM WOULD EXIST SPORADICALLY. HE OBSERVED THAT GENEVA-BASED WORKING GROUPS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO CONDUCT NEGOTIATIONS EFFICIENTLY, WHEREAS SECRETARY'S ON-THE-SPOT NEGOTIATIONS HAD ALLOWED IMMEDIATE ISRAELI AND EGYPTIAN RESPONSES.

9. ISRAELI-US RELATIONS. REP FRELINGHUYSEN NOTED THAT WAR HAD BEEN SHOCK FOR US PUBLIC, THAT CONGRESS WOULD BE UNDER GREATER PRESSURE IN CASE OF ANOTHER WAR TO LIMIT AID TO ISRAEL, AND ASKED WHETHER GOI FACTORED THIS DOMESTIC US REACTION INTO ITS POLICY. EBAN ANSWERED THAT OCTOBER WAR SHOWED THAT GENEROUS US ARMS SUPPLY POLICY REDUCED LIKLIHOOD THAT ISRAEL WOULD EVER ASK FOR US TROOP COMMITMENTS? DECISION TO FURNISH \$2.2 BILLION MILITARY ASSISTANCE HAD CREATED "INDIGENOUS BALANCE". MOREOVER, EBAN ADDED, GOI SOUNDINGS ON US PUBLIC OPINION HAD SHOWN THAT VERY FEW AMERICANS BLAMED ISRAEL FOR CURRENT ENERGY CRISIS. US DIPLOMACY SINCE OCTOBER, HE SAID, HAD BEEN VERY SUCCESSFUL. ISRAELIS WERE TELLING EUROPEANS THAT STRONG US POSITION IN ISRAEL GAVE IT INFLUENCE IN ARAB WORLD, WHEREAS EUROPEANS' ANTI-ISRAELI POLICY HAD NOT

SECRET

PAGE 02 TEL AV 00971 02 OF 02 200707Z

ENHANCED THEIR INFLUENCE AMONG ARABS.

COMMENT: I TOOK OCCASION OF REP FRELINGHUYSEN'S VISIT TO URGE
STRONGLY THAT HE RUN AGAIN THIS FALL IN LIGHT OF HIS NEW
RESPONSIBILITIES AS RANKING MINORITY MEMBER OF COMMITTEE. ALTHOUGH
THERE ARE STRONG PULLS TO RETIRE, I BELIVE HE CAN BE PURSUADED.
KEATING

SECRET

<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 27 JUL 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, POW, FOREIGN RELATIONS, CODELS, PRISONERS WELFARE, NEGOTIATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: cunninfx
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV00971
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: P740146-1169
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740268/abbrzajt.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, TEXT ON MICROFILM
Office: n/a
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cunninfx
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 JUN 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2002 by cunninfx>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: EBAN-FRELINGHUYSEN CONVERSATION ON ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE
TAGS: MORG, PFOR, PGOV, US, UR, SY, IS, XF, EG, (DE BORCHGRAVE, ARNAUD), (FRELINGHUYSEN, PETER), (EBAN, FONMIN)
To: STATE INFO AMMAN
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005